

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for ameliorating subcontracting risk, comprising:
  - generating and maintaining an audit for each of a plurality of suppliers;
  - allowing at least one buyer to search the maintained audit data;
  - based on the buyer's specified search criteria, generating a list of suppliers;
  - allowing the buyer to request more detailed information from suppliers selected from the generated list;
  - receiving permission from such selected suppliers to release such detailed information; and
  - releasing such detailed information to the buyer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a trustee performs the intermediary steps between the buyer and supplier.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the trustee submitting the request for more detailed information to the selected suppliers.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for more detailed information is a submission of a request for information.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the suppliers in the list generated in response to the buyer's search are unidentified.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated list of suppliers is generated based on a hierarchy logic.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- the buyer reviewing the released supplier information;
- the buyer submitting proprietary information to a set of suppliers based on the buyer's review of released supplier information;
- the suppliers having an interest in the buyer's submission each preparing and transmitting a bid to the buyer in response; and
- the buyer reviewing the proposed bids and making a purchase from one of the suppliers of interest.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein a trustee performs the intermediary steps between the buyer and supplier.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the buyer's submission of proprietary information includes a request for quotation.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising implementing a project management system.

11. A method for ameliorating subcontracting risk, comprising:

- generating and maintaining an audit for each of a plurality of suppliers, wherein each audit evaluates the supplier's manufacturing processes;
- allowing at least one buyer to search the maintained audit data; and
- based on the buyer's specified search criteria, generating a list of suppliers.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

- allowing the buyer to request more detailed information from suppliers selected from the generated list;
- submitting the request for more detailed information to the selected suppliers;
- receiving permission from such selected suppliers to release such detailed information; and
- releasing such detailed information to the buyer.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a trustee performs the intermediary steps between the buyer and supplier.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the request for more detailed information is a submission of a request for information.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the suppliers in the list generated in response to the buyer's search are unidentified.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the generated list of suppliers is generated based on a hierarchy logic.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

- the buyer reviewing the released supplier information;
- the buyer submitting proprietary information to a set of suppliers based on the buyer's review of released supplier information;
- the suppliers having an interest in the buyer's submission each preparing and transmitting a bid to the buyer in response; and
- the buyer reviewing the proposed bids and making a purchase from one of the suppliers of interest.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a trustee performs the intermediary steps between the buyer and supplier.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the buyer's submission of proprietary information includes a request for quotation.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising implementing a project management system.

21. A system for ameliorating subcontracting risk, comprising:  
a trustee for generating and maintaining an audit for each of a plurality of suppliers, and  
a buyer, wherein the trustee allows the buyer to search the maintained audit data and generates a list of suppliers based on the buyer's search.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the trustee maintains the supplier audit data on a computer database and the buyers and suppliers interact with the trustee's computer database through a computer.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the buyer requests more detailed information from suppliers selected from the generated list, the trustee submits the request for more detailed information to the selected suppliers and the trustee receives permission and releases such detailed information to the buyer.

24. A system for ameliorating subcontracting risk, comprising:  
a computing system on which an audit for each of a plurality of suppliers is maintained, wherein each audit evaluates the supplier's manufacturing processes.